

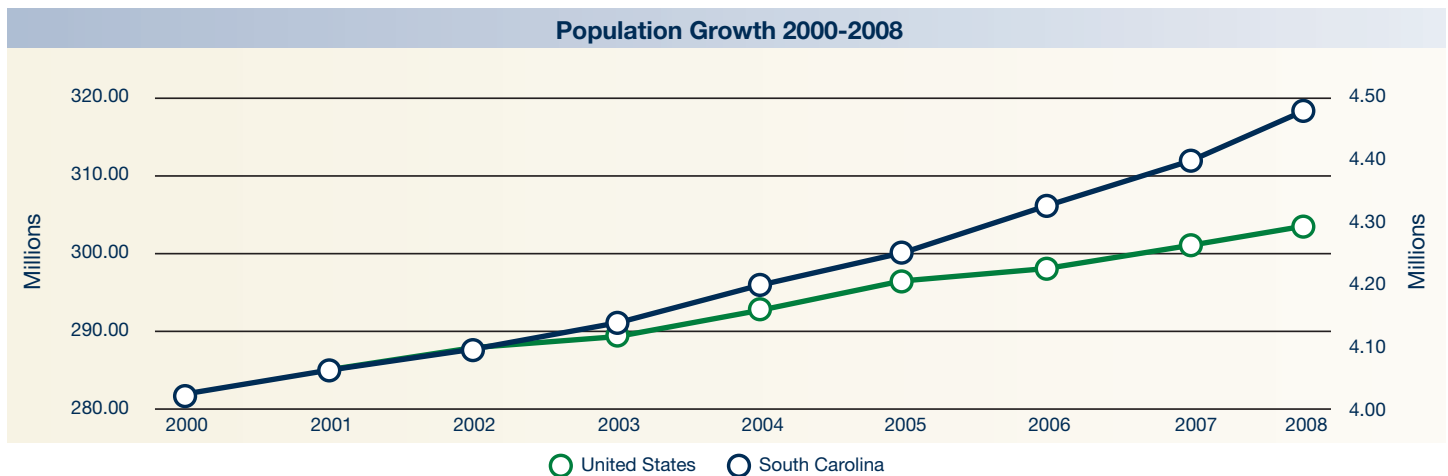
FACT SHEET

Workforce

South Carolina offers one of the fastest-growing, most productive workforces in the nation, ensuring companies find the employees they need.

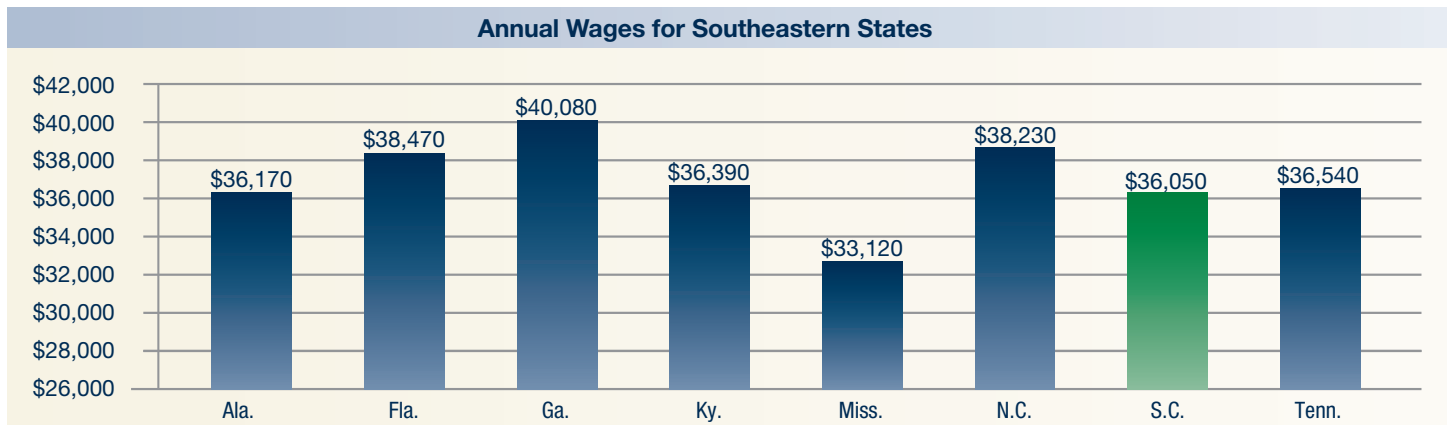
WORKFORCE AVAILABILITY *Providing the Right People*

South Carolina is the nation's 10th fastest-growing state, increasing its population by 11.3 percent between 2000 and 2008. The United States population grew by 7.8 percent during this same time period. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Estimates)



WAGES *Skilled Employees Offer Companies Unparalleled Value*

With a cost of living 16 percent below the national average, South Carolina offers exceptionally productive employees at one of the lowest labor costs in the nation. South Carolina is a right-to-work state and had the third lowest unionization rate in the United States for 2008 — 3.9 percent. (Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics)



SKILLED WORKERS *Offering a High Concentration of Technical Employment*

Since 2003, South Carolina's Centers of Economic Excellence Program has created over 2,000 knowledge-based jobs and invested over \$500 million in talent and infrastructure at South Carolina's research universities.

South Carolina is ranked as a top 10 state in employment concentration for several careers needed by growing industries in the state. Some of the occupations include:

- **Chemical Engineers**
60 percent more than the national average
- **Chemical Processing Operators**
63 percent more than the national average
- **Chemical Technicians**
29 percent more than the national average

- **Computer Control Programmers and Operators**
54 percent more than the national average
- **Industrial Engineers**
45 percent more than the national average
- **Industrial Production Managers**
25 percent more than the national average
- **Nuclear Engineers**
67 percent more than the national average
- **Nuclear Technicians**
94 percent more than the national average

(Sources: South Carolina Centers of Economic Excellence Comprehensive Program Evaluation 2003-2008, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2008 Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates)

WORKFORCE TRAINING *Committed to Strengthening the Competitive Edge of Businesses*

The South Carolina Department of Commerce is committed to meeting a business' specific workforce needs. The state has provided invaluable training to businesses through the following programs:

- **Incumbent Worker Training** — offered through the South Carolina Department of Commerce's Workforce Division, may provide grant assistance that can absorb 50-75 percent of the cost associated with customized training and wages during on-the-job training. The program has grown to serve more than 14,000 workers and 200 businesses annually through training and offers a wide variety of funding opportunities and services.
- **readySC™** — offered through the South Carolina Technical College System, can coordinate training needs at no cost for eligible new or expanding companies

throughout the state, tailored to meet a company's workforce requirements. More than a quarter million workers have been trained since the program's inception and it has been recognized as a national training leader by *Expansion Management* magazine.

- **Apprenticeship Carolina™** — also offered through the South Carolina Technical College System, may help businesses learn more about registered apprenticeships and determine if they should be a part of a company's workforce development solution. Apprenticeship Carolina™ specifically supports the development of apprenticeships in occupations with particular concentration on the industry areas critical to South Carolina: advanced manufacturing, construction, energy, healthcare, information technology and tourism/hospitality.

RECENT RANKINGS *South Carolina Recognized Nationally*

- CNBC ranks South Carolina's workforce sixth best in the nation. The workforce ranking is based on quality and availability of workers as well as workforce training.
(Source: CNBC America's Top States for Business, July 2009)
- South Carolina is a top 10 state with the lowest cost of labor on *Business Facilities'* 2009 "Cost of Labor Ranking." The ranking is based on unionization, unemployment insurance, worker's compensation

premiums, hourly pay in manufacturing, average annual pay in the private sector and average employer cost for an "employee plus one" health care premium. (Source: *Business Facilities*, July 2009)

- South Carolina is a top 10 state in the nation in which to do business in *Chief Executive's* annual poll of readers.
(Source: *Chief Executive*, Jan./Feb. 2009)